



Minutes Tempe Veterans Commission August 11, 2020

Minutes of the TEMPE VETERANS COMMISSION held on Wednesday, August 11, 6:00 p.m., via Microsoft Teams.

(MEMBERS) Present:

Jeremy Farr, Chair
William "Bill" Blair
Phillip Kraft
Michelle Loposky
Alfred Trevino
Cameron Johnson
Courtney Smythe

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Timothy Rogers
Abe McCann, Vice-Chair
David Lucier

Staff Present:

Octavia Harris, Deputy Human Services Director
Terrisa Mays, Administrative Assistant II

Guests Present:

Aaron Peterson, City of Tempe

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Jeremy Farr called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Attendance

Agenda Item 3 – Public Appearances

Agenda Item 4 – Review and Approval of July 22, 2020 Minutes

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE July 22, 2020 minutes by Commission Member Phil Kraft

SECOND: Motion seconded by Commission Member William "Bill" Blair

AYES: Chair Jeremy Farr, Commission Members Bill Blair, Phillip Kraft, Michelle Loposky, Alfred Trevino, Cameron Johnson and Courtney Smythe

ABSENT: Commission Members Abe McCann, Vice-Chair, Timothy Rogers, David Lucier

Agenda Item 5 – Chair’s Remarks

Chair Jeremy Farr welcomed everyone and thanked commission members for their efforts and contributions.

Agenda Item 6 – Review Questions Submitted for Tempe Forum with Strategic Management

Aaron Peterson reviewed questions by the Commission and made several suggestions. To yield better data the survey should meet the following criteria: thirty questions, questions specific to five service areas, five-point scoring mechanism, and demographic data. Aaron informed the Commission that if the survey is so structured, it could grow the Commission reach and yield years of comparable data.

To Do:

Staff to send poll, so Commission can select 1 of 5 service areas to develop questions. Staff to collect draft questions submitted by Commission before next scheduled meeting.

Agenda Item 7 – 2020 Boards and Commissions Annual Report – Goals and Accomplishments

Jeremy Farr explained that plans have shifted due to COVID-19. Commission discussed postponing the creation of newsletter. Octavia Harris explained Listserv exists for Veterans, content can be forwarded to City of Tempe Communications Manager, Nikki Ripley. Ideal content is Q&A, spotlight on a veteran, and job resources. Nikki Ripley suggests submitting content before establishing regular newsletter. Podcasts have not been sanctioned but other possibilities include audio embedded in Mailchimp newsletter and Tempe Channel 11. Commission would work with PIOs to include information quarterly.

MOTION: Motion to APPROVE Veteran’s Commission recommend to City Council that quarterly Veterans related content be included in media communication from the City of Tempe by Commission Member Cameron Johnson.

SECOND: Chair Jeremy Farr

AYES: Chair Jeremy Farr, Commission Members Michelle Loposky, Phillip Kraft, Cameron Johnson, Alfred Trevino.

ABSENT: Commission Members Abe McCann, Vice-Chair, Timothy Rogers, David Lucier. ** Commission Member Courtney Smythe absent from vote due to call drop, rejoined at 6:52 pm.

Agenda Item 8 – 2020 Veteran’s Day Parade

No updates from Commission. As parade is organized by a civilian, Commission is not able to influence if parade occurs. City of Tempe will determine issuance of permit based on COVID-19 metrics. Michelle Loposky explained that before recommendations are made to the Mayor or Council the Commission should determine what the Commission’s level of involvement will be.

Agenda Item 9 – Commission Member Updates/Announcements

Michelle Loposky informed Commission that Arizona State University begins Fall Classes next week. Arizona State University has 11,300 military affiliated veteran students. New veterans center opened in the Sun Devil Stadium.

Agenda Item 11 – Future Agenda Items – September 1, 2020

- Review of Survey Questions with Aaron Peterson

- Background and Mission of Commission with Robin Arredondo-Savage

Agenda Item 12 – Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next meeting will be on September 1, 2020

Minutes Prepared by: Terrisa Mays
Reviewed by Octavia Harris

Jeremy Farr, Chair
Tempe Veterans Commission

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